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TABLETS FROM TELLOH.[1]

The monumental contributions of M. E. de Sarzec to the sum-total of the Babylonian material available for scholars have linked his name to Telloh and have immortalized him for all time. For more than twenty years his indefatigable energy has braved the fevers and other dangers of Babylonia, and dug out of the age-old mounds at Telloh some of the choicest remnants of ancient culture and civilizations. Many of the best inscriptional antiquities from Telloh have been transported and deposited in the Louvre, Paris, where they form one of the most attractive collections of remains of Babylonian civilization to be found in any museum in the world.

The most active transcriber and translator of these de Sarzec and other Louvre inscriptions is M. François Thureau-Dangin, one of the staff of Orientalists connected with that museum. He has published several accounts with some inscriptions descriptive of de Sarzec's finds in various French periodicals, but for the most part in *Revue d'Assyriologie* (Vol. III, No. 4, pp. 118 *sqq.*; Vol. IV, No. 1, pp. 13 *sqq.*; No. 3, pp. 69 *sqq.*; Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 67 *sqq.*). He has gathered up many of these smaller inscriptions already published, and has added to them a large number of those hitherto unpublished.

The volume herewith examined contains 155 autograph plates of 431 different inscriptions, mostly from Telloh. The author has thrown his matter into six divisions, corresponding presumably to successive historical periods. These periods are (1) material anterior to UR-NINÂ; (2) from UR-NINÂ to the beginning of the domination of Agade; (3) the dynasty of Agade; (4) from the close of the dynasty of Agade to the beginning of the dynasty of Ur (UR-ENGUR); (5) from the advent of UR-ENGUR to the modification of the regal protocol under DUN-GI; (6) the close of the reign of DUN-GI and the reigns of Bûr-Sin, Gimil-Sin and Ibi-Sin.

In order to make still plainer the historical and other material, the author presents somewhat in detail the character of the inscriptions which he has included in each division. This is a valuable detailed description of the large material embodied in the 155 plates. It shows the commendable care with which the authorities have kept track of the localities in which many of the separate finds were made, and also as carefully specifies the unknown origin of some valuable documents in the list.

The first division or series is made up of two groups of tablets of different origins. The first consists of eight tablets of unburnt clay found by de Sarzec at Telloh in 1893 in *tell* K, which is 250 meters southeast of the palace *tell*, and adjacent to the structure of UR-NINÂ. The second comprises seven tablets of burnt clay of unknown origin. This very fact adds to the interest attached to them, for they frequently mention a god,

[1] RECUEIL DE TABLETTES CHALDÉENNES. Par François Thureau-Dangin. Paris: *Ernest Leroux*, 1903. Imperial 4to. xvi pages and 155 autograph plates.

SU-KUR-RU as an element in proper names. Thureau-Dangin is inclined to think that these documents may have come from the hitherto unidentified site Šurippak, for (DINGIR) SU-KU-RU is explained in more than one syllabary as Šuruppak. Of all the fifteen documents in this series only four bear dates. Two of these four dated tablets carry proper names that are significant, for they contain in them the element Šurupak; these are No. 14, which was written in the palû of MAŠ-ŠURUPAK, and No. 15, in the palû of INIM-ŠURUPAK-[ ]-ZI. Unfortunately, however, these data have slight value as yet, and all these fifteen documents are classified merely on the evidence of epigraphy.

The second division comprises sixty tablets (Nos. 16–76), many of them of good size, covering the period from UR-NINÂ to the beginning of the domination of Agade. Eight tablets of this division were found by de Sarzec at various dates at Telloh, and all the remainder were dug by the natives and purchased by the Louvre subsequent to the death of de Sarzec. The personnel of these tablets is notable. One tablet mentions URU-KA-GI-NA, King of Lagaš, and another is dated in the *patesiat* of LUGAL-AN-DA. There are several tablets that were the records of the palace, and more particularly of the harem in the time of the *patesiats* of EN-LI-TAR-ZI, LUGAL-AN-DA, and of the *patesi*-king, URU-KA-GI-NA. One tablet is dated in the *patesiat* of EN-TE-ME-NA and of the priesthood of EN-LI-TAR-ZI. This mention of both names in one tablet shows the proximity in time of these two authorities. LUGAL-AN-DA and URU-KA-GI-NA are doubtless to be placed very near the period of EN-LI-TAR-ZI. There is a bit of interesting evidence that the wife of EN-LI-TAR-ZI and BAR-NAM-TAR-RA wife of LUGAL-AN-DA employed the same servant ŠAḪ (Nos. 70 and 75), and that the servant EN-IG-GAL, frequently mentioned under LUGAL-AN-DA was equally at the service of URU-KA-GI-NA and of his wife ŠAG-ŠAG (No. 73).

The tablets of this entire series or division bear the same characteristics, they are baked, in form almost round and the writing is that familiarly known as characteristic of the historical inscriptions of URU-KA-GI-NA.

The third division embraces 103 tablets, some of them mere fragments, all found by de Sarzec, in the now famous "mound of tablets," at Telloh in 1895. These documents are placed by M. Thureau-Dangin in the domination of Agade. The many dates found in these inscriptions give them especial historical value. In the reign of Šargâni-šar-ali there is one tablet dated from the year of the campaign against *Elam* and *Zaḫara* (No. 130), another from the conquest of Syria (Nos. 85 and 124), another from the founding of the temples of Anunit and of Amal at Babylon and of the capture of Šarlak, King of Kutû (No. 118), and another from the founding of the temple of Bêl at Nippur (No. 87). In the reign of Narâm-Sin only one dated year is mentioned, that of the founding of the temple of Bêl at Nippur and of the temple of

Ištar at Ninni-Ab (Nos. 86, 106, 144). Other chronological data may be gathered either from the impressions of seals dedicated to Šargâni-šar-ali (Nos. 161–164), to Narâm-Sin (Nos. 165–174), or to Bingâni-šar-ali, son of Narâm-Sin (No. 169), or from a tablet mentioning the employees of Šargâni-šar-ali (No. 97). From two impressions of seals bearing the name of Lugal-ušum-gal (Nos. 162 and 165), it is concluded that this patesi was a contemporary of Šargâni-šar-ali and of Narâm-Sin. He is also mentioned in the year of the campaign against Uruk and Naksu (No. 136) and on several other documents. Another patesi of Lagaš, UR-E is mentioned by side of Narâm-Sin (No. 83). Every such reference in this list of tablets seems rightly to attribute these documents to the dynasty of Agade.

The fourth division comprises (with the one exception of No. 200) tablets found at Telloh by de Sarzec in 1898 and 1900 north of the "mound of tablets." Their period extends from the close of the dynasty of Agade to the beginning of the dynasty of Ur. The form and writing of these eighty-one documents fall into the limits in time indicated by this fourth division. The author has described this series in *Revue d'Assyriologie*, Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 67 *sqq*. The first group belongs to time anterior to GU-DE-A. Among these tablets, we find of *patesis*, Bá-ša-ma-ma (No. 181), UG-ME (No. 182), UR-BA-U (No. 185), UR-GAR (No. 186), NAM-MAḪ-NI (No. 187), KA-AZAG (No. 188), GALU-BA-U (No. 189), and GALU-GU-LA (No. 190). The reign of GU-DE-A forms a kind of centre for the events of a considerable area of time. In this reign we have several important occurrences, such as the building of temples, the digging of canals, and the construction of thrones. UR-NIN-GIR-SU, the son of GU-DE-A, likewise occupies an important place in the dating of some of these documents. Probably contemporaneous with, or very near to the date of GU-DE-A, we find mentioned the the digging of the famous canal (GIŠ)-ŠUB-BA (No. 191), the building of the temple of the god GA-TUM-DUG (No. 205), of the temple of BA-GA (No. 212), of the temple of NIN-GIR-SU (No. 221), of the election of the high-priest of Ištar (No. 234) and of the opening of the canal BA-U-ḪE-GAL-SUD (No. 253). Several tablets name lists of articles or objects designed for the king or various members of his family, etc. Some of these dated tablets have lent color to the theory that there was a royal dynasty contemporaneous with GU-DE-A and his son, at least this material is worthy of careful study in that line.

The fifth division, embracing twenty-seven tablets, came from the same source as the fourth already described. They are dated in part in the reign of UR-ENGUR and of the *patesiat* of UR-AB-BA. When the reign of DUN-GI, son and successor of UR-ENGUR, begins among the mentioned dates, we are on reasonably familiar ground already discussed by the author (*Orient. Lit. Ztg.* 1898, pp. 161 *sqq.*) on the basis of Hilprecht's *Old Babylonian Inscriptions*, No. 125.

The sixth division, consisting of 144 inscriptions, concludes the reign

of DUN-GI and embraces those of Bûr-Sin, Gimil-Sin, and Ibi-Sin. Eleven important dates in DUN-GI'S reign, seven each of Bûr-Sin's and of Gimil-Sin's reign, and one in Ibi-Sin's are found in this division. A careful investigation of these published documents will do much to fix more precisely the chronology of this hitherto troublesome period in old Babylonian history.

On the supposition that Nabonidus was correct in his reference to Nâram-Sin, the sway of Agade would be located in the thirty-eighth century B. C., the accession of Ibi-Sin about the thirty-fifth or fourth century, and that of EN-TE-ME-NA somewhere about 4,000 B. C.

M. Thureau-Dangin has done a useful piece of work in placing in the hands of scholars these 431 inscriptions of such ancient periods of history. They have already aided somewhat in the solution of some knotty little problems, and when studied in detail will doubtless add much to our knowledge of the historical and religious questions of those times.

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COMPENDIOUS SYRIAC GRAMMAR.[1]

It is a pleasure to greet this old friend in a new dress. Nöldeke's *Kurzgefasste syrische Grammatik*, of which the first edition was published in 1880 and the second in 1898, has well deserved its reputation as one of the most satisfactory of all the standard textbooks in the Semitic field. It is, indeed, a "compendious" treatise, avoiding theories and for the most part recording phenomena without attempting to explain them. But as a clear and authoritative statement of the main facts of the grammar with which it deals, it would be difficult to surpass.

Probably few will question the wisdom of putting forth an English edition. While it is true that most students of Syriac in England and America would be able to use a German textbook without serious difficulty, yet there would certainly be some who could use only a book printed in English; and to many others—the great majority, it is safe to say—the practical value of any such treatise as this one is very much increased as soon as it lies before them in their own mother-tongue. Moreover, it is a remarkable fact that in this important field of Syriac grammar we should have remained up to this time without any English textbook which could be called even tolerably adequate.

Dr. Crichton's translation is a satisfactory one. It follows the German closely, occasionally so closely as to be awkward, or even difficult to understand without a second reading, but, so far as I have observed, it always gives the meaning of the original, and generally gives it clearly. The English edition also has some points of decided superiority

[1] COMPENDIOUS SYRIAC GRAMMAR. By Theodor Nöldeke. Translated from the second German edition by James A. Crichton, D.D. London: *Williams & Norgate*, 1904. xxxiv+336 pp.